

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: GOLKAR FORMS NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE

REF : EMBASSY MEMCON OF 6/21/73

SUMMARY: WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOLKAR-LINKED NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE ON JULY 23, GOVERNMENT MOVED CLOSER TO ITS GOAL OF CONTROLLING AND UNIFYING INDONESIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND YOUTH IN GENERAL. END SUMMARY

1. LEADING FIGURES OF GOVERNMENT PARTY GOLKAR PRESIDED AT INAUGURATION OF INDONESIAN NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE (KOMITE NASIONAL PEMUDA INDONESIA - KNPI) ON JULY 23. ACCORDING FOUNDERS' STATEMENTS, COMMITTEE WILL SERVE AS "NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FORUM" FOR INDONESIAN YOUTH. IT WILL ALSO BE "DYNAMIZER AND STABILIZER" OF YOUTH. IT
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WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH EXISTING YOUTH AND

UNIVERSITY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, (SEVERAL OF WHOSE LEADERS ARE SERVING ON NEW ORGANIZATION) AND WILL REPRESENT INDONESIA ON INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH (WAY), AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ETC. GOLKAR EMINENCE GRISE GENERAL ALI MURTOPO EMPHASIZED TO PRESS THAT FORMATION OF NEW BODY WAS NOT "FORCED" SINCE IT HAD GROWN OUT OF YOUTH FAMILY PLANNING SEMINAR HELD IN BALI IN MARCH 1972. COMMITTEE WILL BE LINKED WITH YOUTH FOUNDATION (YAYASAN PEMUDA) WHICH WILL BE RECIPIENT OF YOUTH-CONNECTED FOREIGN AID (SEE REF MEMCON.) COMMITTEE WILL NOT HAVE PROVINCIAL BRANCHES, ALTHOUGH IT WILL WORK WITH PROVINCIAL YOUTH.

2. LEADERSHIP OF NEW ORGANIZATION CONSISTS OF DELIBERATIVE COUNCIL MADE UP OF SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM GOLKAR AND TWO POLITICAL PARTIES, PLUS WORKING LEADERSHIP OF SIX CHAIRMEN WHO ARE YOUTH LEADERS FROM GOLKAR (E.G., COSMAS BATUBARA, DR. ABDUL GHAFUR) AS WELL AS YOUTH AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS FORMERLY LINKED WITH PARTIES (E.G., AKBAR TANDJUNG OF HMI AND DRS. SURJADI OF GKMNI.) GENERAL CHAIRMAN AND KEY MAN IN LEADERSHIP IS DAVID NAPITUPULU, PJOMER KAMI ACTIVIST WHO AT APPROXIMATE AGE OF 40 IS UNQUESTIONABLY ONE OF INDONESIA'S MOST SENIOR YOUTH FIGURES.

3. NEW COMMITTEE WAS INAUGURATED IN CANDLE-LIT CEREMONY AT HISTORIC BUILDING (MENTENG RAYA 31) WHICH SERVED AS HEADQUARTERS FOR YOUTH WHO SPEARHEADED ANTI-DUTCH REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE. CEREMONY INCLUDED READING OF "INDONESIAN YOUTH DECLARATION" BY MISS JULIA SURYAKUSUMAH, TOOTHsome MORSEL WHO WAS RECENTLY WINNER OF HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST SPONSORED BY CITY OF JAKARTA. DECLARATION WHICH PLEDGED

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INDONESIAN YOUTH TO UNIFY THEIR POWER AND THOUGHT TO ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CHOIR RENDERING REVOLUTIONARY SONGS AND "GAUDEAMUS IGITUR."

4. COMMENT: DESPITE PIOUS PLEDGES OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, COMMITTEE'S

EXISTENCE IS SEEN CORRECTLY BY MOST OBSERVERS
AS FURTHER STEP IN GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO
UNIFY AND CONTROL INDONESIAN POLITICAL LIFE.
(PREVIOUS GOLKAR FRONTS WHICH ARE OUTGROWTH
OF SAME STRATEGY INCLUDE LABOR FEDERATION
(FBSI) AND FARMERS' FRONT (HKTI.) LIKE
THEM, YOUTH COMMITTEE WILL BE CONTROLLED BY
GOLKAR POLITICAL ACTIVISTS RATHER THAN GENUINE
LABORERS, TILLERS OF SOIL, OR STUDENT-YOUTH
ELEMENTS.

5. INDONESIAN INTELLECTUALS, MOSLEMS, ETC.,
WHO USED TO GET UPSET ABOUT THIS KIND OF
THING HAVE BY NOW MOSTLY WEARIED OF PROTEST,
AND COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE YOUTHCOMMITTEE HAVE
THUS FAR BEEN PERFUNCTORY. STRONGER UNIVERSITY
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND PARTICULARLY THE
MODERNIST MOSLEM HMI, MAY BE EXPECTED TO KEEP
ON FIGHTING TO MAINTAIN THEIR OWN AUTONOMY
(EVEN THOUGH SOME OF THEIR LEADERS ARE SERVING
ON NEW COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP.)
ONE PROMINENT HMI
FIGURE (FORMER UNIVERISTY OF INDONESIA
STUDENT CONCIL CHAIRMAN AZRUL AZWAR) HAS
ALREADY STRONGLY AND PUBLICLY CRITICIZED
GOVERNMENT DESIRE TO UNIFY STUDENT-YOUTH
MOVEMENT. IT IS LIKELY MURTOPO AND HIS
MINIONS, WHO HAVE BEEN FAIRLY CAUTIOUS
ABOUT FORCING UNITY ON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
UP TO NOW, WILL CONTINUE TO TEASE THEM
ALONG RATHER THAN RISK EXCITING MORE
STRENUOUS OPPOSITION.

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